International Relations · GS - II

Discuss the significance of transparency and confidence-building measures in conventional arms control. What challenges arise when states prioritise national security concerns over regional arms-control initiatives?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 03/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Conventional arms control; arms-transfer transparency; confidence-building measures; national sovereignty; regional security dilemmas; strategic autonomy; arms race; multilateral diplomacy; verification mechanisms

Model Answer

Introduction

Conventional arms control seeks to improve stability by regulating aspects of conventional weapons and military transfers. Transparency and confidence-building measures can reduce uncertainty and help prevent miscalculation among states.

Significance

Information-sharing on arms transfers, reporting mechanisms and consultations can improve mutual understanding. Such measures may discourage destabilising acquisitions, strengthen accountability and create opportunities for diplomatic engagement. They can also support regional stability by reducing mistrust.

Challenges

States may oppose proposed frameworks when they perceive them as overlooking regional security threats or restricting legitimate defence choices. Unequal security environments, strategic rivalries, weak verification mechanisms and concerns over sovereignty can limit participation. The absence of major regional actors may further reduce the effectiveness of collective arrangements.

The reported India–Israel vote against the UNGA draft illustrates the importance of examining national security concerns when evaluating multilateral arms-control initiatives; the specific legal and diplomatic implications depend on the resolution's text.

Way Forward

Arms-control initiatives should encourage inclusive consultations, equitable implementation, credible verification and context-sensitive confidence-building measures. Bilateral and regional dialogue can complement multilateral efforts.

Conclusion

Effective conventional arms control requires balancing national security requirements with transparency and cooperation to reduce regional tensions.

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